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Message Text

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11
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ERDA-05 NSF-01 AID-05 FEA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TRSE-00 ERDE-00 /085 W
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O R 160635Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6622
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L 2811

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENGR, TGEN, TECH, PFOR, MNUC, EFIN, ETRD, PARM, KS
SUBJECT: US/ROK MEETING ON ENERGY AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

REF: (A) SEOUL 2452, (B) STATE 80670, (C) STATE 38217,
(D) STATE 89782, (E) SEOUL 2559, (F) STATE 89782

1. POLCOUNS CALLED ON MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ATOMIC ENERGY BUREAU DIRECTOR LEE BYOUNG-WHIE APRIL 15 TO CONVEY US PROPOSALS FOR DATE/PLACE, PARTICIPATION, AND AGENDA FOR FORTHCOMING US/ROK MEETING ON ENERGY AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION. STRESSING THAT WE WISH TO LIMIT UPCOMING MEETING TO CONTENT AGREED IN CHOE/KRATZER DISCUSSIONS POLCOUNS OUTLINED AGENDA REF B AS AMPLIFIED BY OTHER STATE REFS. POLCOUNS MADE CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY CONCESSIONAL AID FOR PROJECTS WHICH ROKS HAD PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED TO US. WE WOULD BE PREPARED AT MEETING TO EXPLAIN REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN CENTRALLY FUNDED AID PROJECTS. WHILE PREPARED TO CONCLUDE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SISTER LAB RELATIONSHIP IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT WE WOULD DISCUSS PROVISIONS OF BUT NOT COMPLETE SIGNING OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT.
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2. LEE BYOUNG-WHIE ACCEPTED ALL THIS WITH ONLY ONE OR TWO QUESTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE TERMS FOR PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CENTRALLY FUNDED AID PROJECTS. POLCOUNS SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE MATTER FOR DISCUSSION BUT THAT THERE NO INDICATION CONCESSIONAL TERMS AVAILABLE FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

3. LEE THEN REQUESTED THAT AMBASSADOR WRITE BRIEF LETTER TO MINISTER CHOE OUTLINING PROPOSAL FOR DATE AND PLACE OF MEETING, INDICATING ASSISTANT SECRETARY IRVING WOULD HEAD US SIDE AND LISTING PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS. LEE'S OFF THE CUFF REACTION WAS THAT PROPOSED MAY 4 - 5 DATES APPEARED ACCEPTABLE BUT GAVE NO FINAL COMMITMENT. HE SAID THAT AFTER RECEIPT OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTER AND CONSIDERATION BY ROK SIDE MINISTER CHOE WOULD BE BACK TO US, PROBABLY EARLY NEXT WEEK, REGARDING AGENDA, TIMING, AND ROK PARTICIPATION AT MEETING.

4. IN ACCORD LEE'S REQUEST AMBASSADOR SENT BRIEF LETTER TO MINISTER CHOE LATE APRIL 15 WITH REQUEST THAT HE LET US KNOW WHETHER OUR PROPOSALS FOR MEETING ACCEPTABLE AND IF SO WHO WOULD BE ATTENDING FROM ROK SIDE.

5. IN FOLLOW-QV PHONE CONVERSATION APRIL 16 LEE ASKED WHAT KIND OF INSTRUMENT, (EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OR WHATEVER), US SIDE CONTEMPLATING TO ESTABLISH JOINT COMMITTEE AND SISTER LAB RELATIONSHIP. HE ALSO INDICATED ROK SIDE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON DISCUSSIONS AND AGREEMENT REACHED AT CLOSE MEETING AND ASKED IF WE WOULD AGREE TO THIS.

ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANSWERS TO LEE'S QUESTIONS, PARA 5.
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